

REMARKS

Applicant has cancelled Claims 12-14 directed to a non-elected invention without prejudice or disclaimer in order to expedite prosecution of this application. Applicant has also cancelled Claims 15 and 21 previously on file without prejudice or disclaimer.

The Examiner rejected prior Claims 15 and 21, as being unpatentable over either the two reference combination of Araki in view of Lorenzo or the two reference combination of Araki in view of Mote. Applicants new Claims 22 and 23 (which correspond to prior Claims 15 and 21, respectively) more patentably distinguish over either of the two reference combination rejections. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that new Claims 22 and 23 should be allowed over the cited prior art.

Applicant has added new Claims 22 and 23 to more patentably distinguish over the prior art by adding to these two Claims the feature that the at least one lateral-view mirror which is coupled to at least one substantially trapezoidal shaped base portion adhered along a length thereof to a side rear side portion of a vehicle is "spaced from the rear of said vehicle". New Claim 23 is essentially the same as prior Claim 21, except that New Claim 23 claims that both the passenger-side lateral-view mirror and the driver's side lateral-view mirror are both spaced from the rear of the vehicle.

Applicant respectfully submits that these features are not shown in any of the references, alone or in combination. Araki, the principal reference, is non-analogous prior art since this reference does not relate to lateral viewing. The mirror of Araki faces the rear of the vehicle and can't be used for lateral viewing. Both Mote and Lorenzo use rear, corner-mounted lateral-view mirrors which are coupled to the corners of the rear of the vehicle with brackets and are not spaced from and not adhered to the vehicle as claimed by the Applicant. See, e.g., Figures 5, 7 and 8. This prior art configuration creates several problems. Lorenzo shows mirrors that protrude out from the vehicle (instead of hugging close to the vehicle) and places the mirrors at the corners of a vehicle where they can be damaged or damage other people or objects from both a rear direction and a side direction. Applicant's claimed invention avoids both of these drawbacks, allowing for lateral-view mirrors to be adhered to a side rear portion of a vehicle spaced from the rear of the vehicle, which keeps each such lateral view mirror close to the vehicle, making this configuration more aerodynamic as well as safer. Additionally, Applicant's lateral-view mirror will be less likely to cause damage or be damaged.

Both the Lorenzo reference and the Mote reference show the use of lateral view mirrors that are badly positioned.

Applicant respectfully submits that none of the cited references show a mirror assembly, as claimed by Applicant.

Accordingly, for the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 22 and 23 are patentable over the cited prior art. None of the references show the Applicant's above noted claimed features, separately or in combination. In addition, it should be noted that there must be a suggestion in the references that suggest the desirability of the combination. See Fromsom v. Advance Offset Plate, Inc., 755 F.2d 1549, 1556, 225 USPQ 26, 31 (Fed. Cir. 1985) (the prior art must suggest to one of ordinary skill in the art the desirability of the claimed combination).

Applicant respectfully submits that Applicant's claimed invention is deserving of patent protection because it describes, in combination, a useful and functional device which patentably distinguishes over the cited prior art. In conclusion, Applicant respectfully submits that this Amendment, in view of the Remarks offered herein, is fully responsive to all aspects of the objections and rejections tendered by the Examiner in the Office Action. Applicant respectfully submits that he has persuasively demonstrated that the above-identified Patent Application, including Claims 22 and 23, is in condition for allowance. Such action is earnestly solicited.

If there are any fees incurred by this Amendment Letter, please deduct them from our Deposit Account No. 23-0830.

Respectfully submitted,

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